



(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for greater accountability in Federal funding for scientific research, to promote the progress of science in the United States that serves that national interest.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SMITH of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To provide for greater accountability in Federal funding for scientific research, to promote the progress of science in the United States that serves that national interest.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the "Scientific Research in  
5 the National Interest Act".

1   **SEC. 2. GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN FEDERAL FUNDING**  
2                   **FOR RESEARCH.**

3           (a) **STANDARD FOR AWARD OF GRANTS.**—The Na-  
4   tional Science Foundation shall award Federal funding for  
5   basic research and education in the sciences through a new  
6   research grant or cooperative agreement only if an affirm-  
7   ative determination is made by the Foundation under sub-  
8   section (b) and written justification relating thereto is  
9   published under subsection (c).

10          (b) **DETERMINATION.**—A determination referred to  
11   in subsection (a) is a justification by the responsible Foun-  
12   dation official as to how the research grant or cooperative  
13   agreement promotes the progress of science in the United  
14   States, consistent with the Foundation mission as estab-  
15   lished in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42  
16   U.S.C. 1861 et seq.), and further—

17               (1) is worthy of Federal funding; and

18               (2) is in the national interest, as indicated by  
19   having the potential to achieve—

20                    (A) increased economic competitiveness in  
21                    the United States;

22                    (B) advancement of the health and welfare  
23                    of the American public;

24                    (C) development of an American STEM  
25                    workforce that is globally competitive;

1 (D) increased public scientific literacy and  
2 public engagement with science and technology  
3 in the United States;

4 (E) increased partnerships between aca-  
5 demia and industry in the United States;

6 (F) support for the national defense of the  
7 United States; or

8 (G) promotion of the progress of science  
9 for the United States.

10 (c) WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION.—Public announce-  
11 ment of each award of Federal funding described in sub-  
12 section (a) shall include a written justification from the  
13 responsible Foundation official as to how a grant or coop-  
14 erative agreement meets the requirements of subsection  
15 (b).

16 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—A determination under sub-  
17 section (b) shall be made after a research grant or cooper-  
18 ative agreement proposal has satisfied the Foundation's  
19 reviews for Merit and Broader Impacts. Nothing in this  
20 section shall be construed as altering the Foundation's in-  
21 tellectual merit or broader impacts criteria for evaluating  
22 grant applications.